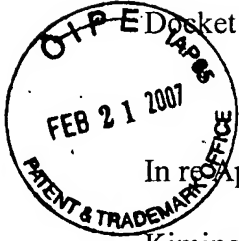


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Docket No.: 050203-0149

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 31824  
Kiminobu HIRATA, et al. : Confirmation Number: 4387  
Application No.: 10/576,720 : Group Art Unit: 3748  
371(c) Date: December 13, 2006 : Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
For: ENGINE CONTROL APPARATUS :  
AND ENGINE OPERATING :  
METHOD :

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

References (2) to (4) were cited in an International Preliminary Report on Patentability and a Written Opinion dated June 6, 2006, issued in corresponding International Application No.

Application No. 10/576,720

PCT/JP2004/013307. An English-language translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability and the Written Opinion is also enclosed.

Copies of references (2), (3) and (5) are enclosed. Please note that a copy of reference (4) is not available. English-language abstracts accompany references (2) and (3).

Reference (1) is the English-language equivalent of reference (2) and reference (5) is the English-language equivalent of reference (4).

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Date: February 20, 2007**  
ORC 407098-1.050203.0149

**Please recognize our Customer No. 31824  
as our correspondence address.**



SHEET 1 OF 1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
CITATION IN AN  
APPLICATION

(PTO-1449)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.  
**050203-0149**SERIAL NO.  
**10/576,720**APPLICANT  
**Kiminobu HIRATA, et al.**371(c) DATE  
**December 13, 2006**GROUP  
**3748**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US 7,143,756	12-05-2006	Kojima, et al.	
		US			
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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes -Number 4 -Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation Yes No
	2	JP-2003-254048	09-10-2003	Kojima, et al.		(abstract)
	3	JP-2002-371831	12-26-2002	Hirata		(abstract)
	4	JP-2003-529011	09-30-2003	Banks, et al.		
	5	WO-00-075643	12-14-2000	Banks, et al.		

## OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

ORC 407096-1.050203.0149